

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES, ENERGY, AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 – 1:15 p.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. David P. Hinkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Ken Ivory, House Chair
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Rep. Scott H. Chew
Rep. Kay J. Christofferson
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Keith Grover
Rep. Stephen G. Handy

Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway
Rep. Angela Romero
Rep. Scott D. Sandall
Rep. Keven J. Stratton

Members Absent:

Rep. Mike K. McKell

Staff Present:

Mr. Adam J. Sweet, Policy Analyst
Mr. Samuel C. Johnston, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.leg.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Hinkins called the meeting to order at 1:44 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Handy moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2015, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Davis, Rep. Grover, and Rep. Stratton were absent for the vote.

2. Telehealth

Ms. Lou Theurer, Business Operations Manager, Department of Telemedicine, University of Utah Health Sciences, briefed committee members on the development of telemedicine at the University of Utah. She commented on the high quality of telemedicine and the importance of gathering data to verify the success of telemedicine programs.

Mr. Chet Loftis, Managing Director, Public Employees Health Plan, presented "Insurance Perspective on Telehealth." Mr. Loftis discussed how health care providers are paid by insurance companies and how telehealth may be administered. He also briefed committee members about Amwell, an online service that provides immediate online visits with health care providers.

Rep. James A. Dunnigan asked committee members if there would be an interest in establishing a joint working group combining participants from the Health Reform Task Force and the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee to look at existing statutes that address telehealth, including barriers to telehealth medicine, reimbursement of providers, and patient safety and data protection.

MOTION: Rep. Handy moved that the committee form a joint working group with the Health Reform Task Force and that committee chairs appoint members to participate in the working group. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Davis, Rep. Grover, and Rep. Stratton were absent for the vote.

Dr. Cheryl Lee Eberting, dermatologist, noted her professional experience and spoke in support of telehealth in the areas of medical, mental health, and health and wellness. Dr. Eberting also expressed an interest in participating in the working group.

3. Recycling Centers – Air Quality Permits

Ms. Heidi Thorn, President, Navitus Sustainable Industries, briefed the committee on the progress toward building a dependable and cost-effective recycling renewable energy facility in Sandy City that would effectively convert all types of refuse into electricity.

Mr. Jeff Hartley, lobbyist, representing Navitus Sustainable Industries, commented on the progress of the permitting process and indicated that the approval of the application has taken longer than expected.

Mr. Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality, discussed the recycling center's minor source air permit and addressed issues raised that have delayed the permitting process.

Mr. Scott Anderson, Director, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, Department of Environmental Quality, indicated that another permit is required for the waste management part of the process. Mr. Anderson spoke in support of the company's initiative.

Ms. Ashley Soltysiak, Senior Policy Associate, Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah, spoke in opposition to the proposed recycling facility.

4. A Performance Audit of the Utah Communications Authority

Mr. John Dougall, Utah State Auditor, introduced Mr. David Pulsipher, Performance Audit Director, Office of the Utah State Auditor, who presented and reviewed "A Performance Audit of UCA Financial Management and Transparency." Mr. Pulsipher noted that the audit was requested by the governor's office due to concerns regarding the proposed expansion and upgrade to the Utah Communications Authority's 800 megahertz radio system that is expected to cost taxpayers approximately \$240 million.

Mr. Dougall stated that the Utah Communications Authority Board has been working diligently on issues that have been raised by the audit.

Ms. Tina Mathieu, Chair, Utah Communications Authority Board, briefed committee members on the board's implementation of new procedures to address the findings and recommendations contained in the audit.

Ms. Mathieu and Mr. Quinton Stephens, attorney, Ballard Spahr LLP, responded to committee members' questions.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Ivory moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Davis was absent for the vote.

Chair Hinkins adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.